

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider comprising the steps of:

said healthcare provider uploading an appointment schedule onto a database via a network communications system;

a patient inputting said patient's static information and said patient's current information onto said database via said network communications system;

said patient accessing said appointment schedule;

said patient selecting an available time period on said appointment schedule for an appointment; and

said patient securing said appointment with an electronic transaction.

2. (original) A system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, said system comprising:

a database for storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and a patient's static information and current information;

an input means for receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and said patient's static information and current information;

a recording means for storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and said patient's static information and current information;

a process means for said patient securing an appointment during a time period, said process means carry out the operations of:

- a) displaying said healthcare provider's appointment schedule to said patient;
- b) allowing said patient to designate said time period;
- c) facilitating an electronic transaction on behalf of said patient to provide for payment of said appointment; and
- d) updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule such that said time period is no longer listed as available.

- 3. Cancelled
- 4. Cancelled
- 5. Cancelled